

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health



Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1959

ATHERTON URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for

1959

Atherton Urban District Council

Public Health Committee

Chairman :

Councillor P. JONES.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor Mrs. A. HIGGINSON

Councillors

J. BROWN	A. HOLLIDAY	R. SHAW
E. DONOGHUE	P. HUGHES	J. STIRZAKER
W. GOULDEN	S. LOVELESS	C. URMSTON
H. GREENHALGH	G. W. NALLY	J. WESTWELL
J. N. HEWITT	G. H. PARKER	W. WILLIAMS

Public Health Officers

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

E. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

THOMAS McGUIRE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., I.S.A.A.(Dip.),
Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

ALFRED HEALY, M.A.P.H.I.

Cert. R.S.H. for Meat Inspection.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT :

Mrs. A. HOPE.

(to 30th September, 1959).

Miss S. HASLAM

(from 1st December, 1959).

CONTENTS.

Foreword.

Section A — Statistics

Section B — Health Services.

Section C — Infectious Diseases.

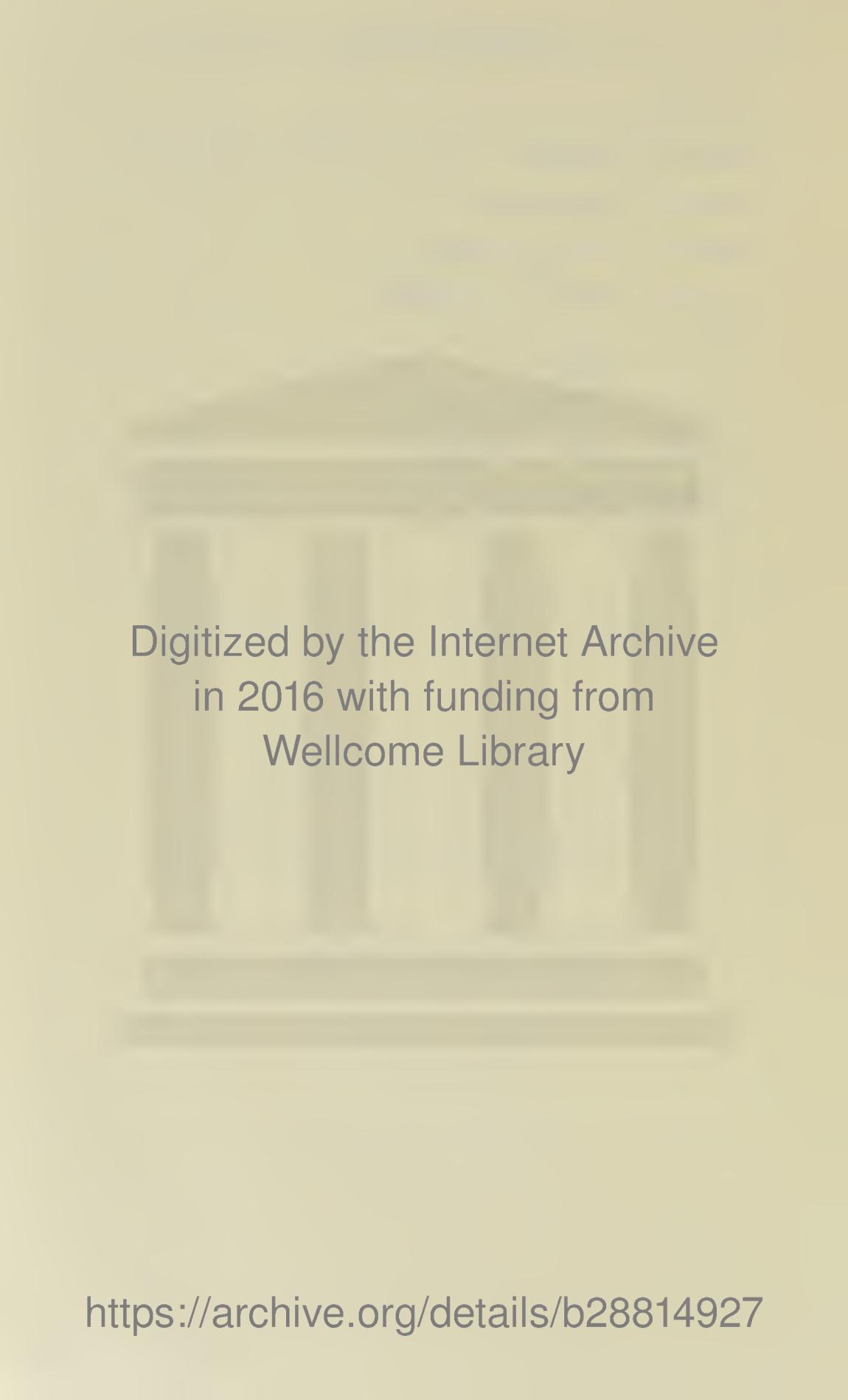
Section D — Sanitary Circumstances.

Section E — Food.

Section F — Housing.

Section G — Smoke Abatement.

Section H — Shops Act.

A faint, out-of-focus background image of an open book. The pages contain dense, illegible text that is too faded to be read.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28814927>

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Atherton.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your information and consideration the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Atherton for the year ended 31st December, 1959, together with certain relevant statistical information.

The population of the district, following the Census of 1951, was 20,596, and the Registrar General's mid-1959 estimate shows a slight increase over the 1958 figure from 19,700 to 19,750.

The number of live births decreased by 18 to a total of 308, giving a birth rate of 15.6. Eight stillbirths (all females) were fortunately offset by only two infant deaths in the first year of life. An infant death rate of 6.5 was the lowest so far recorded. However, the loss in infant life cannot ignore stillbirths, as there is undoubtedly a relation between that condition and deaths within a week of birth, i.e., the perinatal mortality—and this rate was 28.5.

An outstanding event in the year was the decision by the Council to adopt a clean air policy which has the intention (by means of smoke control areas) of enabling the citizens of the town to breathe a smoke-free air within about ten years. Graphic examples of the smoke content of today's atmosphere are always on view outside the Town Hall.

In the sphere of humane housing, the Council showed itself well to the front of Local Authorities. In co-operation with the County Council was launched a most successful scheme of 18 aged persons' bungalows with additional amenities for the frailer householders, i.e., warden supervision, with a call-bell system, communal sitting rooms and a communal laundry. I am sure that the obvious happiness of the residents must be the cause for great pleasure to everyone.

In conclusion I should like to thank my fellow officers in all departments for their co-operation, and the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their consideration and support throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

E. TAYLOR.

SECTION A.

Statistics.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS.

General Statistics.

Area in acres—2,265.

Population—

1951 Census—20,596.

Mid 1959 Estimate—19,750.

Number of inhabited houses—6,672.

Rateable Value—£203,514.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£765.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

			Males.	Females.	Total
Legitimate	....	....	163	141	304
Illegitimate	....	....	3	1	4
	Total	....	166	142	308

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 15.6

Still Births:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
	—	8	8

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 total births) 25.3

Deaths—All Causes:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
	146	159	305

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 15.4

Adjusted Death Rate (per 1,000 population) 15.1

Maternal Deaths

1

Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 total births) 3.16

Infant Deaths

2

Infantile Death Rate 6.5

Neo-Natal Deaths 1

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate 3.2

Adjusted

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS.

* Live Births	Stillbirths	* Deaths (all causes)	Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality	
				Total	Neonatal
No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. over 1,000 regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths per 1,000 regis- tered births	No. of deaths per 1,000 live births
308	15.6	8	6.5	3.16	6.5
Year 1959	305	15.1	1	2	1
Year 1958	326	16.5	5	281	14.3
Year 1957	289	14.6	7	15	17.4
Year 1956	305	15.2	7	314	nil
Year 1955	253	12.6	11	256	14.3
Year 1954	277	13.7	4	262	14.0
Avg. 5 years— 1954-58	290	14.5	7	289	12.6
				0.6	7
				23.4	4
					14.4

* Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 15.6 per 1,000.
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 15.1 per 1,000.

TABLE II.
CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1959.
 Registrar General's Return.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
Tuberculosis, other .....	...	..
Syphilitic Disease .....	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	..
Whooping Cough .....	...	..
Meningococcal Infections .....	...	..
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	...	..
Measles .....	...	..
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	...	..
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	...
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	.	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	...	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	15
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	...
Diabetes	1	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	25	29
Coronary Disease, Angina	24	19
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	.	2
Other Heart Disease	13	16
Other Circulatory Disease	11	5
Influenza	2	3
Pneumonia	6	5
Bronchitis	8	6
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	..
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .....	...	..
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	...	..
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	..
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	..
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	...	1
Congenital Malformations .....	..	1
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	19	32
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	.	1
All other Accidents	3	3
Suicide	7	1
Homicide and operations of war .....	.	..
TOTAL	146	159

TABLE III.
VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth and death-rates, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases, for England and Wales in the year 1959
(Provisional figures based on Registrar-General's Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

Estimated home population mid-1959—45,386,000

	No.	Rate per 1,000 home population
Births :		
Live Births	750,170	16.5
Stillbirths	15,899	{ 0.35 20.7 (a)
Deaths :		
All causes	527,574	11.6
Tuberculosis (all forms)	3,855	0.085
Respiratory	3,475	0.077
Non-respiratory	380	0.008
Cancer (all forms)	97,116	2.14
Lung and bronchus	21,063	0.46
Other cancer	76,053	1.68
Maternal mortality (total)	291	0.38 (a)
Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	244	0.32 (a)
Due to abortion	47	0.06 (a)
Infant mortality	16,471	22.0 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	11,881	15.8 (b)
Notifications (corrected) :		
Typhoid fever	119	0.003
Paratyphoid fever	376	0.008
Meningococcal infection	745	0.016
Scarlet fever	47,889	1.055
Whooping cough	33,208	0.732
Diphtheria	103	0.002
Erysipelas	3,200	0.071
Smallpox	1	0.000
Measles	539,207	11.880
Acute Pneumonia	26,789	0.590
Acute poliomyelitis—		
Paralytic	733	0.016
Non-paralytic	289	0.006
Acute encephalitis—		
Infective	138	0.003
Post-infectious	119	0.003
Dysentery	35,600	0.784
Food poisoning	9,992	0.220
Puerperal pyrexia	10,723	0.236
Tuberculosis—		
Respiratory	24,499	0.540
Meninges & C.N.S.	244	0.005
Other	2,636	0.058

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 live births.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services
for the Area.

SECTION B.

Ambulance.

Atherton and Leigh Ambulance Stations. Tel. Leigh 939.

Care of Children—Children Act, 1948.

Children's Committee, Lancashire County Council. Area Children's Officer:—Miss J. M. Cole, 89, Railway Road, Leigh.

Clinics.

1. ANTE-NATAL.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Tuesday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon.

2. DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH, TETANUS IMMUNISATION.

(i) Alder House Clinic.

By arrangement, alternate Monday afternoons of the month.

(ii) General Practitioner Service

3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Wednesday, 1-30 to 3-30 p.m.

4. OPHTHALMIC.

Alder House Clinic, by appointment.

Each Tuesday a.m.

5. ORTHOPAEDIC.

Elliot Street Clinic, Tyldesley, by appointment.

2nd Thursday mornings of each month.

6. POST-NATAL.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Friday, 9-30 a.m. to 12 noon

7. SCHOOL HEALTH AND MINOR AILMENT.

Alder House Clinic.

Each Monday and Thursday a.m.

8. SPEECH THERAPY.

Stonehouse Clinic, Leigh, by appointment.

9. TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY AND CHEST CLINIC.
Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.
10. VENEREAL DISEASES.
 - (i) Civic Centre, Bolton.
Males and Females—Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7-30 p.m.
 - (ii) Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan.
Males—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Females—Wednesday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 4-30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Convalescence.

Under arrangements made by the Lancashire C.C. through the Divisional Medical Officer.

Convalescent Treatment.

Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board through the Local Hospital Management Committee.

Health Visiting Service.

Full-time Health Visitors/School Nurses are employed in the area by the Lancashire C.C.

Home Help Service.

Provided by the Lancashire C.C. Apply to Divisional Medical Officer, Leigh Road, Leigh.

Home Nursing Service.

District Nurses employed by the C.C. are available in the district.

Hospitals.

1. **General**—Leigh Infirmary, Atherleigh Hospital, Astley Hospital.
2. **Infectious Disease**—Hulton Lane Fever Hospital, Bolton.
3. **Maternity**—Bolton District General Hospital, Farnworth.

Laboratory Facilities.

Regional Hospital Laboratories at Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries and the Monsall Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Maternity Homes.

Firs Maternity Home, Leigh.

Haslam, Havercroft & Heaton Grange Maternity Homes, Bolton.

Midwifery Service.

Domiciliary midwives employed whole time in the area by Lanes. C.C.

Nursing Homes.

None in the district.

Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

Provision for their care is made by the Lanes. C.C., in conjunction with voluntary organisations.

Welfare Services.

Under arrangements made by the Lanes. C.C

Residential accommodation under Divisional arrangements.

X-ray Facilities.

At Bolton, Leigh and Wigan Infirmaries. Facilities for special chest cases at the Chest Clinic, Leigh Infirmary, Leigh.

SECTION C.

Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious and other Diseases.

SECTION C.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

The last case was notified in 1948. Continuous endeavours are made to maintain as high a number of immunised infants as possible.

Dysentery.

Six cases notified.

Erysipelas.

Three cases notified, all in the middle-age group.

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified under Section 26 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

Malaria.

No notifications.

Measles.

The anticipated biennial wave of measles occurred, resulting in 308 notified cases. There were no deaths.

Meningococcal Infection.

No notifications for the year.

Paratyphoid Fever.

No notifications for the year.

Pneumonia.

There were 28 cases of Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia notified, and of this number, eleven deaths.

Poliomyelitis.

No case was notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

No case was notified.

Scarlet Fever.

31 cases were notified.

Smallpox.

No notifications were received.

Tuberculosis.

12 cases of pulmonary infection and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified.

Typhoid Fever.

No notifications for the year.

Whooping Cough.

Only eight notifications were received compared with seven last year. If this is in fact a reasonably true picture, then it would appear that the immunisation scheme is beginning to have a worth while effect.

TABLE IV.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1959.

DISEASE.	Total Cases at all ages.	CASES NOTIFIED Years.										Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65		
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	6	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles, excluding German Measles	308	18	35	45	43	44	117	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal Infection	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	28	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	12	5	11	...	...	...
Acute Polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	31	...	1	6	6	5	11	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	8	...	1	3	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria (contracted abroad)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	1	1	7	...	...
Females	5	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...	...	1	5	...	...
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Males	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	397	19	37	46	52	52	133	18	10	6	12	5	7	13
														13

TABLE V.
Table relating to Vital Statistics and Notified Infectious Diseases in other years.

Year	Birth-rate	Death-Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Births	Deaths	Diphtheria		Enteritis		Measles		N. in Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever	
						Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted
1900	36.7	16.49	161.6	3	3	14	14	40	3	5	5	9	29	13	2	55	1	17	5
1905	30.9	13.7	141.8	40	3	14	14	20	2	6	6	24	17	19	3	36	88	100	19
1910	26.47	14.67	154.1	...	...	15	15	31	3	9	9	13	44	18	7	15	49	49	2
1915	25.44	13.11	103.09	...	...	18	18	24	...	2	2	23	8	25	15	15	49	49	2
1920	24.1	12.7	109	...	...	9	9	108	3	1	1	11	5	28	8	52	...	1	1
1925	15.4	10.9	63	29	3	3	3	...	...	1	1	1	18	6	42	...	...	...	...
1930	15.3	10.6	61	8	...	1	1	73	10	3	3	9	1	15	9	78	...	...	...
1935	13.3	12.6	143	...	...	51	51	55	3	1	1	7	4	8	6	6	42	42	...
1937	14.0	11.2	127	42	7	7	7	127	12	2	2	9	2	2	1	1	1	1	...
1938	13.6	10.2	116	...	...	3	3	35	9	1	1	1	5	9	8	8	37	37	...
1940	15.5	12.0	102	...	...	5	5	74	...	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	...
1943	18.2	12.8	1186	...	...	7	7	12	2	2	2	191	8	3	1	7	9	88	...
1944	16.29	11.86	60	8	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	382	...	7	2	9	11	5	49
1945	17.9	11.3	23	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	66	...	8	3	11	5	70	...
1946	17.6	10.9	33	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	511	...	7	2	2	12	5	49
1947	19.7	13.3	50	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	77	...	7	2	9	11	5	79
1948	15.2	10.0	28	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	364	...	7	2	7	11	5	104
1950	14.0	11.5	123	24	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	415	...	5	3	7	12	4	42
1951	12.9	13.4	142	8	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	50	...	10	...	12	4	4	59
1952	15.8	12.4	181	15	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	494	...	3	...	11	11	4	97
1953	15.1	21.6	22.9	44	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	104	...	2	2	2	24	4	50
1954	13.7	11.8	126	22	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	20	...	5	3	7	12	4	27
1955	12.6	13.0	140	12	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	316	...	1	...	15	2	2	22
1956	15.2	12.8	143	23	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	278	...	6	3	9	10	1	46
1957	14.6	15.8	174	42	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	164	...	2	2	10	1	2	19
1958	16.5	143	184	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	23	...	14	...	1	1	2	19
1959	15.6	15.4	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	308	...	12	2	12	1	1	6.5

SECTION D.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The town's water supply has remained adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality. The management and control of all pipes, fittings and pressures is the statutory responsibility of the Manchester Corporation Water Undertaking, but a close liaison is maintained with this authority.

The bacteriological and chemical examinations, carried out throughout the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, have given no cause for alarm.

Streams.

Streams and watercourses within the district call for regular attention throughout the year. Miscellaneous materials do find their way into such watercourses, which, while not injurious to health or of a pathogenic nature, present a problem by their unsightliness, and the cost involved in employing labour to manually remove the debris.

There are no dye, silk, or chemical works with their attendant effluents.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage is of the Combined drainage system and disposal is effected at the sewage works under the control of the Leigh and Atherton Joint Sewage Board.

Authority for capital expenditure having been received, the work of enlarging and reconstructing portions of the major sewer lines, has commenced during the year.

Sanitary Accommodation.

At the end of 1959 the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation were as follows, viz:-

Number of Privy Middens	Nil
Number of Closets attached to these Middens....	Nil
Number of Pail Closets	4
Number of Trough Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets	553
Number of Fresh Water Closets	7,434
Number of Dry Ashpits	Nil
Number of Moveable Ashbins	6,783
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	6,686

Conversions during 1968:-

Number of Privy Closets to Pail Closets	Nil
Number of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets	49
Number of Trough Closets to Fresh Water Closets	7 (at schools)

Attention has been directed to the elimination of waste water closets more expedited, but account must be taken of future slum clearance where conversion would be paradoxical, and of applications for improvement grants, which automatically eliminate waste water closets.

The conversion of waste water closets to the fresh water system is encouraged by the grant of £9 per conversion, paid by the Council on the completion of the work.

Disinfestation.

Five privately owned properties and two Council Houses were treated during the year, mainly for the elimination of bed bugs.

The insecticidal residual spray proved effective in all cases and use was made of the steam disinfecter plant at Bolton for such linens and articles requiring steam treatment.

Scavenging.

Some 10,000 tons of domestic refuse was collected during the year and disposed of at Council controlled tip in Millers Lane, situated on the southern town boundary.

Four 7/8 cubic yard side loading vehicles are used, carrying out a weekly collection service. Each vehicle has a salvage trailer for the collection of waste paper. This is baled and sold to the paper merchants, and income derived from such sales amounted to £1,567 for the year.

Street sweeping is carried out by manual labour under the direction of the Surveyor.

Factories and Workplaces.

Inspection of premises were carried out throughout the year, and particulars are contained in Table VII of this report.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

Rodent control was carried out most vigorously throughout the year. The Council rodent operative is fully trained and technical advice and assistance is always readily available for both private dwellings and industry alike. There is, however, a charge made for services to industry and business, not so in the case of private dwellings.

TABLE VI.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.			
	(1) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	Non-Agricultural (2) All Other (inc. Business Premises)	(3) Total of Cols. (1) & (2)	(4) Agricultural
I. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	6672	427	7099	19
II. Number of properties inspected	238	133	371	8
III. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	369	214	583	14
IV. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by:				
(a) Rats } Major	47	76	123	4
(b) Mice } Minor	—	—	—	—
V. Number of infested properties treated				
VI. Total treatments carried out—including re-treatments	105	88	193	4
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:				
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
IX. Legal Proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
X. Number of "Block" control schemes car- ried out	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

In accordance with directives, half yearly treatment of the sewers of the district was carried out. Results obtained were most satisfactory.

"Warfarin" has been the principal bait used, but in certain instances, notably the refusc tip, zinc phosphide has been resorted to. These baits have proved effective in their respective uses.

Swimming Baths.

The public swimming baths has again proved very popular and good attendance figures have been attained. The baths provide facilities for schools in the areas of Atherton, Westhoughton and Horwich. At the close of the summer season, extensive alterations and modernisation of the plunge was undertaken, to be ready and in use for the 1960 season.

Water is supplied from the town mains, with constant filtration and chlorination. Samples taken throughout the year and submitted to the Public Laboratories for examination, proved satisfactory.

A small snack bar/cafe caters for the wants of patrons at moderate charges.

Schools.

Improvement to facilities and attention to general repairs has kept the structure of the schools satisfactory.

The conversion of the final 7 trough closets has resulted in fresh water W.C.'s being in use at all schools.

Offensive Trades.

There are no premises of this nature in the town.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

There are no common lodging houses in the district and only one "house-let-in-lodgings." The standard of the property is fair and that of the occupants is good, resulting in little or no problem.

Rag Flock Acts.

There is only one workshop in Atherton where rag flock is manufactured, used or sold. The sample submitted for examination was satisfactory.

TABLE VII.
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PREMISES.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers	Number of Notices prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	17	3	—	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	96	5	—	
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	4	6	—	—	
 Total	<u>95</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Nil</u>	

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops.

Nuisances under the Public Health and Factory Acts—

	Found.	Abated.	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	9	9	1
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1	—
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	—
Drainage of Floors	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
 Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient	1	1	—
Unsuitable or defective.....	8	7	Nil
 Other offences against the Act	1	—	Nil
 Total	<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>1</u>

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Places under Inspection.

The number of food premises, by type of business, at end of 1959, were as follows:—

Grocers	89
Bakers	20
Confectioners (sweets, minerals, ice cream) etc.....	37
Fried Fish Shops	18
Meat Shops (butchers purveyors of cooked meat, tripe, etc.)	23
Greengrocers	10
Fishmongers	6
Canteens, Snack Bars & Licensed Premises	49
Others	4

Premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, include:—

	No. of Premises.	No. of Inspections during 1959
Hawkers—Fish, Fruit & Vegetables	18	21
" Meat & Meat Products	2	7
Bakehouses	17	37
Fried Fish Shops	18	31
Cooked Meat Preparing Premises	4	11
Sausages, etc., Preparing Premises	16	28
Ice Cream Shops	63	97

Food Inspection.

As in previous years, premises where the sale or preparation of foodstuffs takes place, have received regular visits and attention. Such venders are more acutely aware of the benefits to be derived from maintaining a good standard of cleanliness and hygienic principles. This achievement is reciprocal to the trader and public alike.

There are two premises with plant for the manufacture of ice cream. Both have modern, up-to-date equipment. Vans used for retail trade, and the premises, have been inspected and the standard maintained fulfills the statutory requirements governing such vans and premises.

Analytical results of food samples, including ice cream, are shown under a separate heading later in the report.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two wholesale and one retail privately owned slaughterhouses in the district, with a daily killing carried out at the former. Post mortem examination of carcase meat is a daily routine.

Improvements to buildings and facilities are at present under review to coincide with the slaughterhouse reports at present being called for.

The following details of animals killed and inspected are presented.

	Cattle.	Cows. (excl. cows)	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
No. Slaughtered	1258	1442	—	11231	2319
No. Inspected	1258	1442	—	11231	2319

All Diseases other than T.B.

Whole carcases condemned	—	3	—	16	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	233	276	—	2173	241
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	18.5	19.3	—	19.5	10.5

Tuberculosis only.

Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	21	85	—	—	38
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1.7	5.9	—	—	1.6

Cysticercosis.

Carcases of which part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Unsound Food.

The food condemned as unfit for human consumption, other than that stated in previous paragraphs, was as follows:—

14 tins Apricots	22 lbs.
27 tins Beef Steak	24 lbs.
19 tins Beans	17 lbs.
23 tins Corned Beef	97 lbs.
9 tins Fruit Salad	18 lbs.
17 tins Grape Fruit	27 lbs.
12 tins Ham, cooked	141 lbs.
5 tins Herrings	5 lbs.
29 tins Luncheon Meat	23 lbs.
3 tins Minced Loaf	3 lbs.
13 tins Milk	13 lbs.
3 tins Oranges	3 lbs.
14 tins Ox Tongue	84 lbs.
4 tins Plums	4 lbs.
2 tins Pilchards	2 lbs.
14 tins Pineapple	14 lbs.
42 tins Pears	60 lbs.
46 tins Peaches	65 lbs.
11 tins Peas	9 lbs.
13 tins Pork Lucheon	35 lbs.
18 tins Raspberries	27 lbs.
8 tins Soups	8 lbs.
8 tins Strawberries	8 lbs.
127 tins Tomatoes	112 lbs.

Milk Supply.

Milk supplies to the area remains satisfactory. This being a designated area the sale of raw milk, other than tuberculin tested, is not permitted.

These supplies and that of the School Milk service are all delivered in sealed bottles. The County Council are the controlling authority for the latter supply.

There are no pasteurising or heat treatment plants in Atherton and all locally produced milk is despatched under specific arrangements to other townships where such plant is available.

3 dealers are licensed for the distribution of Tuberculin Tested milk, 5 others for Pasteurised milk, and 61 retail shops are registered for the sale of pasteurised and/or sterilised milk.

The sampling of milk for chemical analysis under the Food & Drugs Act, is carried out by the County Council Inspectorate and the results of milk procured locally and submitted for bacteriological examination are as follows:-

(a) Raw Milk :

(i) Tuberculosis—biological tests—

No. of samples 10. No. positive nil. No. negative 9. No result 1.

(ii) Methylene Blue Test—

No. of samples 2. No. satisfactory 2. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(iii) Brucellosis test—

No. of samples 2. No. satisfactory 2. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(b) "Heat treated" milk :

(i) Phosphatase test—

No. of samples 4. No. satisfactory 4. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(ii) Turbidity test—

No. of samples 2. No. satisfactory 2. No. unsatisfactory nil.

(iii) Tuberculosis—

No. of samples 4. No. positive nil. No. negative 4.

A good wholesome water, sufficient in quantity and pressure, is supplied to all farms in the district from the town mains.

Bakehouses.

Regular inspectorial visits have been made throughout the year to the bakehouses within the district.

The condition and standard of cleanliness of walls, floors and ceilings; equipments and personnel have all received the attention of the inspectors and any conditions requiring remedial work or rectification has been subject to verbal or written notice.

It can be said that conditions generally and the management of the premises are on the whole satisfactory.

There has been no outbreaks of food poisoning or abnormal infestations of vermin, affecting any of the bakehouses during the year.

Food Premises.

Food premises, wholesale and retail shops, have as in previous years been subject to regular and systematic inspection.

The requirements of the Hygiene regulations and Clean Food by-laws applicable to the respective trades are being observed and it is considered that the standard of cleanliness is generally good.

Strict surveillance has been kept in all food premises for the maintenance of facilities for hand washing, towels and soap, with the emphasis on and a strong appeal to the staff, to use and not abuse such facilities.

Storage and protection of foodstuffs from rodent or other contamination has been improved by verbal consultation or by notice served in writing asking for specific requirements.

The results of sampling of foodstuffs has been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer and a summary of such activities is appended.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

A total of 100 samples was obtained, consisting of 65 samples of milk (one of which was Channel Islands milk) and 35 others comprising:-

1 Camphorated oil.	1 Compound syrup of hypophosphites.
3 Soup, canned.	2 Coffee and chicory essence.
1 Butter.	2 Margarine
2 Bread.	1 Rice.
1 White pepper.	2 Health salts.
2 Liquid paraffin.	1 Sweets, butter drops.
2 Castor oil.	2 Cough medicine.
1 Barley.	1 Malt extract.
1 Salt.	1 Epsom salts
1 Boracic lint.	1 Olive oil.
1 Seidlitz powders.	1 Vitamin tablets.
1 Sweets.	2 Fresh fruit.
1 Pork sausages.	

I give below details of samples upon which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Coffee & chicory essence	Caffeine 0.23% w/v, should be not less than 0.25% w/v	No action taken
1 Liquid paraffin	Sample did not comply with B.P. limits for carbonisable material and sulphur compound	Packers communicated with
1 Sweets, butter drops	Sweets individually wrapped in papers bearing list of ingredients appropriate to fruit drops, otherwise genuine	Manufacturers notified
1 Informal bottle of sterilised milk	Contained piece of worn and rabbed wood (weight 6.7 grms., moist weight) and measuring 115 x 16.3 x 6 millimetres, which fitted tightly into the neck. The bottle was unopened and the milk passed the turbidity test	Dairy interviewed
1 Pork sausages	Contained 230 parts per million sulphite preservative without declaration	Vendor interviewed

SECTION F.

Housing.

SECTION F.

HOUSING.

	Houses.	Flats.
Number of New Houses erected during the year:—		
(i) By the Local Authority	43	36
(ii) By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	12	—
1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	889	
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1145	
(2) Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :		
(a) Number found during year	11	
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	132	
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	91	
2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954):—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses demolished during year :		
(a) Unfit houses	25	
(b) Other houses	—	
(2) Number of persons displaced	32	
3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—		
Houses demolished or closed during year:—		No. of persons displaced.
(a) Housing Act, 1957:—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	5	14
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 16 and still in force	2	2
(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 17)	—	—

(2) Repairs during the year:—

*No. of
Houses.

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	249
(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied:—	
(i) By owners	5
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(c) Housing Act, 1957—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11):—	
Houses made fit:—	
(i) By owners	5
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil

4. Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—

(1) Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7....	Nil
(2) Number of separate dwellings contained in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	Nil

* A defective house remedied more than once during the year should be included once only.

Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, etc.

Action during the year:—

	No. of Schemes	No. of Dwellings Affected.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	66	66
(b) Approved by local authority	63	63
(c) Submitted by L.A. to Ministry	—	—
(d) Approved by the Ministry	—	—
(e) Work completed	46	46

General Inspections.

Houses (including re-visits)	1,145
Schools	21
Factories & Workplaces	104
Bakehouses	180
Food preparing places	247
Dairies, Miscellaneous, etc.	238
Shops	223
Slaughter-houses	606
	—
	2,764
	—

In connection with these inspections, the following nuisances and defects were found and remedied, viz:—

	Found.	Remedied.
House roofs in need of repair	57	52
Defective W.C.'s	42	39
Choked or defective drains	11	11
Defective plaster of walls, etc.	83	67
Insanitary condition of yards	2	2
House walls damp	52	41
Defective eaves gutters	19	16
Defective windows, etc.	27	21
Animals kept as to be a nuisance	2	2
Miscellaneous (floors, stairs, etc.)	46	41
	—	—
	341	292
	—	—

Arising from these nuisances and defects, the following notices were served, viz:—

Informal	105
Statutory	17

Rent Act, 1957.

There has been a marked decline in the activity of this Act, in that no applications for certificates of disrepair were received throughout the year. This is not to say that all property repairs that could have been effected under the Act have materialised, but indicates that Landlords have not sought the increased rent at the risk of being involved in disputes with their tenants.

GENERAL. Conditions and observations.

Atherton is a northern industrial town having a diversity of industries with a predominance of coal and cotton. A fair proportion of the properties are cottage type terraced rows, and some are in the region of 80—90 years old, while others are of a better type and standard and not quite so old. Development of new estate property is taking place on the north boundary, where there are now some 2,100 semi-detached houses. This development commenced prior to 1939 and was re-commenced when post-war conditions permitted.

There are, of course, some sub-standard properties which are constantly in need of attention and will ultimately have to be brought into Clearance Areas. A number of such properties have already been dealt with, and two of the cleared sites have been re-developed.

The district is not entirely free of mining subsidence, and considerable remedial work has been undertaken to properties so affected.

There are no back-to-back houses in the district.

The development of the site to be known as "Cherry Tree Grove", consisting of 77 one-bedroom bungalows and community centre for those of the bungalows constructed under the Welfare Scheme, proceeds at a good pace and completion should be reached in the current year.

The allocation of Council houses to those applicants on the list who are sub-tenants has once again been vigorously pursued. However, the list of applicants still remains at approximately 500 strong.

Quite an active, lively interest has been taken in the Improvement Grant Scheme, and this has resulted in a number of properties being modernised with the cardinal amenities consistent with a reasonable housing standard.

The prosperity of some tenants in those properties which command only a very low rental has shown itself in the manner in which these tenants have improved their own environment to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

Preliminary survey of the area to be designated Smoke Control Area No. 1 has commenced, and will result in inspectorial work being undertaken during 1960.

Improvement to street lighting, private street works and road improvements are being dealt with by your Surveyor.

SECTION G.

**Atmospheric Pollution and
Smoke Abatement.**

Atmospheric Pollution.

Deposit gauges are provided, in addition to lead peroxide apparatus, at the two stations set up at the St. George's School and Alder House sites.

The readings obtained are as follows:—

Monthly Deposits in Tons per Square Mile and Sulphur Dioxide by the Lead Peroxide Method.

	Rainfall in ins.	pH	Tons per square mile Insoluble Deposit	Soluble Deposit	Total Solids	SO ₃ /mg. day 100 ² cm	
Alder House.							
January	2.17	3.7	11.33	5.48	16.81	
February	0.12	3.7	3.63	1.75	5.38	
March	1.69	4.1	12.08	3.73	15.81	
April	2.48	4.1	7.80	4.65	12.45	
May	1.89	3.9	9.75	4.45	14.20	
June	3.39	4.1	14.51	5.48	19.99	
July	1.10	4.3	3.73	2.22	5.95	
August	0.32	5.7	7.36	2.16	9.52	
September	0.16	6.5	12.49	3.18	15.67	
October	3.39	4.3	11.98	6.78	18.76	
November	4.49	4.1	12.86	5.24	18.10	
December	5.28	3.9	9.34	8.21	17.55	
Monthly							
Average		2.21	4.37	9.74	4.44	14.18	
		Mean				2.15	
						Mean	

St. George's School.

January	....	2.32	3.7	10.80	6.19	16.99	5.89
February	....	0.43	3.7	7.19	4.68	11.87	3.43
March	....	1.69	3.7	13.14	6.26	19.40	2.92
April	....	2.72	4.1	13.07	8.25	21.32	2.03
May	....	1.69	3.9	7.36	4.51	11.87	1.75
June	Apparatus Disturbed — No Record.						
July	....	3.94	4.2	10.39	5.60	15.99	0.97
August	....	0.47	6.3	7.08	2.68	9.76	1.18
September	....	0.20	6.1	11.21	3.44	14.65	1.51
October	....	3.98	4.1	12.07	10.08	22.15	2.38
November	....	5.04	4.1	12.66	7.19	19.85	2.99
December	....	5.67	3.9	11.76	8.46	20.22	3.11
Monthly							
Average		2.55	4.35	10.61	6.12	16.73	2.56
		Mean				Mean	

Full particulars of the observations are submitted to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Fuel Research Station, London, of which this Council is a member of the Standing Joint Committee.

During the year under review a policy was formulated for the establishment of Smoke Control Areas throughout the town. Planning consultation took place with neighbouring authorities and a programme was outlined to cover the town area in approximately 10 years. The first survey to commence in 1960 and this pilot scheme will cover a total number of 201 houses in the area known as West Ward.

Where investigation has been carried out into the cause of excessive factory chimney smoke, it has been found that the offence has resulted from a combination of poor fuel, operators, and a general lack of supervision, with the defence resting on the well-worn phrase of outmoded plant. The general level of pollution is no greater than in previous years, and the modernisation effected at two of the minor industrial plants are not in themselves sufficient to greatly reduce the overall pollution.

As a further aid in the assessment of pollution there has been in operation since the latter part of the year a volumetric smoke meter, and the daily recordings of this meter are submitted monthly to the Atmospheric Pollution Records Department.

The result of the year's activities, while not very tangible, has nevertheless been quite satisfying in the approach to a smoke-free atmosphere.

SECTION H.

Shops Act.

SECTION H.

SHOPS ACT.

The Council is the Shops' Act Authority for the administration of the Shops Act, 1950.

In conjunction with inspection of shops under other Acts and regulations, the inspectors have taken into account the conditions relating to the health, comfort and welfare of shop assistants, as called for under the various enactments relating to shops.

The statutory requirements demanded of the management are not very onerous, and it is pleasing to relate that flagrant disregard of the various prescribed forms and notices is not met with.

The main shopping centre has benefited by the erection of some new modern shops in the place of an old worn-out cinema building.

In the campaign for the eradication of rats and mice, supervision and control on a contract basis is carried out by the Health Department staff in some of the multiple stores.

The proprietors of such businesses as hairdressers are called upon to honour the code of conduct governing such establishments, and in these and other trades having a similar code it is pleasing to report that the majority of occupiers are very willing to co-operate.

Preliminary notices have had to be served, but no statutory action for non-compliance has had to be resorted to.

E. Aldred & Son, Printers. Tel. Atherton 160.
